

The Washington Post

Passing the Entitlement Buck

Washington Post, Feedback
Monday, March 26, 2007; A14

The March 22 news story "Democrats Plan to Restore Budget Discipline; House, Senate Consider How to Reduce Deficit" [news story, March 22] failed to mention that the Democrats' proposed budget ignores the looming threat of entitlement spending growth in programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

The baby-boom generation begins retiring in 2008, and the costs of health care are skyrocketing. The over-65 population is expected to nearly double by 2035, to 75 million, while the ratio of workers to retirees will shrink to 2-to-1 the same year. Left unchecked, entitlement spending will consume nearly 70 percent of the federal budget in just 10 years.

Despite many Senate hearings on the urgency of this issue, the Democrats' budget offers not a single proposal that will, on net, reduce entitlement spending. That is not budget discipline; it is passing the buck to future generations.

JUDD GREGG

U.S. Senator (R-N.H.)

Washington

The writer is the ranking Republican on the Senate Budget Committee